RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 10*th June*, 1998/20, *Jyaistha*, 1920(Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock

Mr. Chairman in the Chair

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: सभापति महोदय, गुजरात में जो साइक्लोन आया है...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please, we will take up Oath or Affirmation.

MEMBERS SWORN

1. Shri C. Ramachandraiah (Andhra Pradesh)

2. Shri Rumandla Ramachandraiah (Andhra Pradesh)

3. Shri K. Kalavenkata Rao (Andhra Pradesh)

RE: CYCLONE IN GUJARAT AND RAJASTHAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: As hon. Members are aware, a severe cyclonic storm lashed coastal areas of Gujarat and Jalore district of Rajasthan on the 9th June, 1998 claiming more than 100 lives and causing severe damage to the local infrastructure. In this hour of tragedy, we extend our heart-felt condolences and strong sense of solidarity for the affected families. We are sure that every effort will be made to extend rescue and relief assistance and to restore normalcy, as early as possible.

I request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the tragedy.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 201. Shri Parag Chliha.

श्री अहमद पटेल: सभापति जी, गुजरात में बड़े पैमाने पर तबाही हुई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि या तो यहां इस पर चर्चा रखी जाए या स्टेटमेंट रखा जाए, मिनिस्टर साहब की ओर से...(व्यवधान) जो लोग मारे गए हैं...(व्यवधान)

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: सभापति जी, कम से कम 300 लोग इस साइक्लोन में मर चुके हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार यहां कोई न कोई वक्तव्य दे और जल्दी से जल्दी उनको राहत पहुंचाई जाए, ऐसी मेरी भावना है। केन्द्र की ओर से गुजरात सरकार को...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are all hon. Members. During the Question Hour, nothing will be raised. As was requested by you in the Chamber that the hon. Minister should come to make a statement, the Leader of the House had said that he would see to it.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: May I inform the House through you, Sir, that the hon. Prime Minister is coming at 4.00 PM to make a statement on yesterday's discussion? Secondly, the Finance Minister will come here tomorrow at 12.00 Noon to give a reply to the Budget discussion. About the Gujarat episode, a statement will be made by the concerned Minister tomorrow around 4.15 PM or 4.30 PM here in this House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, if there is a statement today, it would be so brief that the hon. Member would not be able to know as to what the real position is, because only last night, was the Army able to move in slightly. Most parts of it are still inaccessible. The Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Gujarat as well as the people there, both through the Defence as well as the civil authorities, and we are trying our utmost to see that whatever relief can be provided, should be provided. Tomorrow would be a better day to inform the House precisely.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Supply of Electricity to Delhi

*201. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: †
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Minister has ensured supply of required MW of

† The question was actually asked on the floor of House by Shri Parag Chaliha.

electricity supply to Delhi for the Current summer season;

(b) if so, the total MW of electricity supplied per day to Delhi from Northern grid during May, 1998;

(c) whether the additional electricity made available to Delhi by his Ministry is rendered meaningless as it is diverted back to the grid; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/contemplated to ensure real benefits to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) A Statements is laid on the Table of the House.

(Statement)

(a) Ministry of Power has taken steps to make available adequate quantum of power supply to Delhi from Northern Grid during the current summer season.

(b) The details of MW of power supplied to Delhi from the Northern Grid during the month of May, 1998 are enclosed as Statement Delhi received power supplies upto 1605 MW from the Northern Grid during the month of May. 1998 against its maximum entitlement of 1420 MW.

(c) Delhi has generally been drawing more power (MW) than the entitlement from the Northern Grid to meet its peak demand. However, sometimes, the drawal has been less than the entitlement due to low voltage and transmission & distribution (T&D) constrainsts in Delhi Vidyut Board's system which restricts its capacity to draw power from the Northern Grid. There have been some incidents of interruption of power supply as a result of operation of under frequency relays due to low frequency in the Northern Grid caused by overdrawals by some States. However, such interruptions due to low frequency are for short durations only.

(d) Low voltage in Delhi is largely due to shortage of shunt capacitors in the Delhi system and low generation at Delhi Vidyut Board's thermal power stations. Assistance is being rendered to Delhi by POWERGRID by installation of shut capacitors in DVB system on priority to improve the voltage profile in Delhi. Powergrid has also taken over operation and maintenance of three grid sub-stations of DVB. Badarpur TPS is maintaining a generation level of 525—550 MW which is fully dedicated to Delhi.

DVB have been advised to improve their own generation and bring it upto 375—400 MW and also augment its Transmission and Distribution system.

Statement-I

Details of MW of Electricity Supplied Per Day to Delhi from the Northern Grid.

Date	Imported from grid		
	Schedule	Actual	Excess
1-May-98	1355	1288	−67
2-May-98	1355	1329	−26
3-May-98	1325	1310	−15
4-May-98	1420	1449	29
5-May-98	1350	1328	−22
6-May-98	1375	1435	60
7-May-98	1195	1274	79
8-May-98	1070	1183	113
9-May-98	1155	1156	1
10-May-98	1285	1065	−220
11-May-98	1285	1128	−157

Date	Imported from grid		
	Schedule	Actual	Excess
12-May-98	1210	1264	54
13-May-98	1220	1258	38
14-May-98	1220	1294	74
15-May-98	1275	1374	99
16-May-98	1245	1423	178
17-May-98	1195	1425	230
18-May-98	1315	1506	191
19-May-98	1340	1489	148
20-May-98	1400	1539	139
21-May-98	1305	1490	185
22-May-98	1315	1503	188
23-May-98	1350	1595	245
24-May-98	1265	1466	201
25-May-98	1240	1407	167
26-May-98	1255	1376	121
27-May-98	1285	1471	186
28-May-98	1360	1605	245
29-May-98	1315	1426	111
30-May-98	1325	1404	79
31-May-98	1325	1397	72
May-98	1420	1605	245

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, I am sorry to state that I have come straight from the hospital bed by taking leave only to raise this question because of its importance. First of all, I must commend the Minister in charge for at least not withholding anything which may not be very palatable to him or to us. Things are rather surprising in many ways because the present Lt. Governor happens to be the earlier chief of the Delhi Vidyut Board. But things appear to be going from bad to worse everyday. Sir, an independent observer like Mr. Roy and another former chief of DESU, Mr. Kuldip Singh Gujaral, had pointed out that the present crisis is manmade and is not the result of shortage of power supply, but surprisingly, of abundance of supply. It is a strange thing which has occurred in the capital of our country. That is simply because the existing system has become obsolete and is not capable of handling the additional load being made available. Sir, Delhi's own installed capacity is 2,000 MW while they need about 500 MW more. But only 700 MW is being produced. The theft component is very, very interesting. The theft component is still touching forty per cent, said Mr. Gujaral Yesterday in a statement. According to Mr. S.N. Rao,....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask questions. Please ask simple questions. There is no need to give the details.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Just a preliminary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; the Minister knows everything. You please put a pointed question to him.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: My supplementary is this. On the one hand, the installed capacity of DVB, i.e. 2,000 megawatts, is not being generated; on the other hand, about half of it is being

stolen by industrial units with the connivance of officials of the Delhi Vidyut Board and with the patronage of Politicians, and this has also been rather directly stated by the hon. Minister himself. My question is whether any particular steps have been taken to stop the theft. Here, the answer is, only advices are being sent. Will the Minister be pleased to state whether concrete steps have been taken in view of the calamitous position that has been created by the Delhi Vidyut Board?

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned that the installed generation capacity of the Delhi Vidyut Board is 2,000 megawatts. I beg to correct him. The actual generation capacity on line today is 665 megawatts. What was being produced, on an average, last month was 260 megawatts, according to the reports I have received from the DVB. There is another station which is totally allocated to Delhi, Badarpur TPS. Now that has a capacity of 705 megawatts. It is being run by the NTPC. it is producting 525 megawatts, about 70 per cent plant load factor. Delhi's requirment actually is much higher than most of us think. This year, there has been a sudden increase in the requirement. We have gone to 2,545 megawatts in May, 1998. In May, 1997, the same time, it was 2, 343 megawatts. There is a deficit of supply, on peak demand, of 287 megawatas. We had actually agreed to give 1,400 megawatts from the Central Grid at a meeting which took place between me and the Chief Minister of Delhi. He asked for extra power. We agreed to give 1,400 medawatts. Effective from the middle of May, we stabilised the frequencies and pushed this amount of power and Delhi drew upto 1,605 megawatts. The truth is that the transmission and distribution system is old. A lot of investment, a substantial amount of ivestment, is required to reduce the T&D losses and to improve the T&D system. It is also true that there are a lot of losses which are not answerable in terms of technical reasons as is often interpreted, obviously, Such as theft of power, because where we don't get the revenue, and where the losses cannot be answered technically, they consider it to be theft of power. Now on this, there consider it to be theft of power. Now on this, there might be a little dispute whether it is 20 per cent or 30 per cent, but the percentages are so large. What the hon. Member has said is quite justified. The Delhi Government has taken very firm steps. They have got a raiding party with the help of the hon. Home Minister; we have got a raiding party of almost a hundred people, a hundred police men. Every day, cases are being registered. Almost seven or eight crores of rupees worth of theft has been recovered and we have made recovery of monies. Cases are being launched. Special steps are being taken, but the problem is substantial.

In the year 1998 the Delhi Government and the Delhi Vidyut Board had appointed the ICICI as consultants to look into the privatisation of one part, at least, one zone of Delhi, which is separable quite easily, that is, the eastern part of Delhi. They have got two weaks' time to decide the manner of privatisation as also to whom it should be given. The ICICI is a known financial agency which is capable of doing consultation. It has taken professional advice and it is proceeding on. I can only say that this problem is not solvable overnight. It needs firm and decisive steps and we are taking them.

श्री शिव चरण सिंह: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि आपने अपने उत्तर के पार्ट "ग" में कहा है कि "दिल्ली अपनी व्यस्ततमकालीन मांग को पूरा करने के लिए उत्तरी ग्रिड से सामान्यतः अपनी पात्रता से अधिक विद्युत (मे०वा०) का आहरण कर रही है।" माननीय मंत्री जी, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि 1990 के बाद आपने दिल्ली में कोई इलेक्ट्रिसिटी जेनेरेशन का प्लांट नहीं लगाया है। आपको मालूम है इस साल जब गरमी पड़ी तो सारे देश में टेम्प्रेचर बहुत ज्यादा हुआ और दिल्ली में भी ज्यादा था और इन दिनों में कृषि के लिए बिजली काफी कम मिलती है। उसके बावजूद भी [illegible]

आपके विभाग को आडवाणी जी को बुलाना पड़ा। आपने "एस" जैसे इम्पोर्टेंट इंस्टीट्यूशन की, हॉस्पिटल की बिजली बंद की।

आपको यह भी मालूम है कि दिल्ली की आधी से ज्यादा आबादी में आज भी आपका कट चल रहा है। क्या इस ऑगस्ट हाऊस के सामने आप यह प्रतिज्ञा लेकर उत्तर देंगे कि बिजली की आपूर्ति पूरी करेंगे या प्रशासन तंत्र जिसमें पचास प्रतिशत बिजली की चोरी है डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम में, उसको आप सुधारेंगे? चाहे वह दिल्ली विद्युत बोर्ड हो चाहे आपका केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण क्योंकि दोनों केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार की मिली-जुली जिम्मेदारी है। आपका काम उत्पादन और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन है और फिर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को देना है। वहां जो कुछ कमियां हैं, उनको केन्द्र सरकार के विद्युत मंत्री के नाते आप जिम्मेदारीपूर्ण यह कहिए कि मैं सारे देश का विद्युत सिस्टम खास तौर से दिल्ली का जो खराब हो रहा है, उसको ठीक करूंगा और नहीं करूंगा तो क्या करेंगे?

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has posed a question which in our existing Constitutional framework can't be really committed to by me. The Delhi Vidyut Board and the distribution and supply of power in Delhi is a matter that is dealt with by the Delhi Government. As Union Minister of Power my jurisdiction to reply in this area is very limited. It will be unfair, if I try to cross my area of jurisdiction in our existing Constitutional framework. But I share the concerns of the hon. Member. All of us have persuasive powers. There are leaders on the other side who also have a lot of influence in the Delhi Vidyut Board. I think the problem is one which should be addressed above political party differences, whatever we may have. It is a very critical issue. We have a power problem in the capital, in the citadel where the power sits. There is a situation of making power powerless. The situation is that Advaniji has himself taken a party meeting of ours and in that party meeting we have addressed this problem. We have addressed this problem at the meetings I had with the Chief Minister. We had more than four meetings in the last one month. From the side of the Union Power Ministry we have ensured that we would keep the frequency at the appropriate levels, which we have done. A meeting was held with the Northern Regional Electricity Board where the Delhi Vidyut Board Chairman was called in. We have even disciplined the other States, in the northern region, who were drawing extra power to ensure that the frequency is maintained. The frequency has been maintained. But what is called histroical problems of faults arising due to low capacity equipment, low quality equipment and bad planning, cannot be answered in a day. We are addressing them. As a said earlier, the Chief Minister of Delhi is fully seized of the matter. He has himself taken steps to address the problem of theft of power. It is not because he belongs to my party. But I must commend him. I have spoken to many Chief Ministers. He had gone out with the raiding parties to places where power stolen.

SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ: But there are no results.

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: There are results; Otherwise, you would not be having power in Delhi.

SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ: I can show you places where wires are hanging and going into houses.

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, these hanging wires which are going into houses do hurt us. But the amount of power we lose there is nothing compared to cable theft. We actually lose power at places where underground cables have been laid without meters where there is large consumption of power. That is the real problem which we are facing. Industrial users are able to take power without it being metered. We have, at least, in the case of industrial users put electronic meters. But we also have industrial users who are neither registered with SSI nor registered with any other forum. These are industries which run in domestic areas. It is a huge operation which cannot

be handled in a day. Sir, we are trying to solve this problem. The hon. Members would admit that we are, at least, admitting openly what the problem is. We are not trying to cover it up. We are addressing the problem. We will take decisive steps. DVB has got a large police force for conducting raids. We have done it. DVB has done what was never done before. It was not done even during the Congress Government. We have recovered so much money in the month of May which is the worst month when normally people don't raid because they think that there will be reactions. Some officers have been suspended. Steps have been taken to handle this problem. Not only that, we have also asked the ICICI consultants they are taking steps about privatisation to move quickly so that this problem could be addressed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri S.B. Chavan.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, I want to put my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is over.

श्री शिवचरण सिंह: मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया गया है। कम से कम हॉस्पीटल्स के लिए...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shiv Charan has already put his supplementary. It is over now.

श्री शिवचरण सिंह: मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ हैल्थ में जो हॉस्पीटल्स के लिए बिजली मुहैया कराने के लिए आपको पत्र लिखा है, उसके बारे में आप ऐश्योरेंस दीजिए।

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, I have heard the Minister of Power. He said that during peak hours there was a shortfall. The peaking capacity seems to be falling short of the total supply which has been given to Delhi. How are you trying to tap power from NTPC and other sources in order to provide peaking capacity to Delhi? In spite of taking so much power from NTPC and other sources, why have you not been able to stop a number of things which are happening in DVB?

During the non-peaking hours also there is a short supply in a number of areas in Delhi. How do you explain it? Why is electricity not available to them even during non-peaking hours? My second point is about rated capacity and derated capacity. I don't know whether it is derated capacity or not, but they have not been able to run generating sets for reasons best known to them. That is number one. Secondly, they have not been able to generate power. Merely by admitting that 40 per cent .....*(Interruptions)*. He has used all kinds of objectives whether technical or non-technical and explainable or non-explainable. Everybody knows that so much of power is being stolen. It is a kind of open theft. Nobody seems to have under-stood it. Nobody takes it so easily. One more thing, Sir, and I am done, and that is about the Electricity Board of Delhi. It is well known for not making any payments. They don't pay the NTPC; they don't pay the Railway Board. Everything is available to them without any charge. And now a point is being raised by some of the hon. Members that the Government of India is thinking in terms of giving some kind of an assurance to them that Rs. 10,000 crores, which, in fact, is due from them, are going to be provided by the Government of India. It it a fact or not?

SHRI R. KUMAR MANGALAM: There are many questions in his supplementary. I would like to address them one by one. Firstly, I had mentioned the figures relating to peaking hours. This has been rightly pointed out by the hon. Member. Sir, the actual shortage in so far as non-peaking hours was 1.5 per cent in April, 1997, and it is 4.4 per cent in April, 1998. While giving the figures, I have to say that this is not just of the peaking hours but it is actual energy which has been there. The reason is very simple. Technically, I can maintain frequency in the grid. I can make power available. But the back-up generation, which is required within the circuit of Delhi, must exceed in order to maintain both voltages and frequency. For that, we should draw the power evenly. As has

been rightly pointed out, the generation capacity which is there in Delhi and it is the present rated—generation capacity -- you may call it derated or highly rated ....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: You have to exactly say whether it is derated or not.

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The word 'derated' can be interpreted in many ways, Mr. Chair man, Sir. The point is ....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Please don't mislead the House. It is certified as derated.....

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGLAM: I shall come back later on to the answer whether in the technical sense, it is derated or not. Whether it is derated or not, the generation is only 260 MW -- out of 665 MW, capacity avilable 30 MW have been shut. So, we are producing only 260 MW which does not speak well of the generation abilities. That is the truth. We have, therefore, asked the NTPC to help us in improving the generation of these two plants, both Rajghat and I.P. power stations. In fact, one of the generators has totally dropped out of the circuit and one of them has gone into severe difficulties. we have moved in, stood by them and helped them to put it back on the circuit. But there are a number of problems over which they have much a low PLF, which need to be addressed. In fact, the renovation and maintenance works for both these power stations are urgently required. But there is no money available. The hon. Member has rightly pointed out that a lot of money is due from DVB to the Central public sector units. In fact, on the Badarpur Power Station alone, Rs. 6,000 crores of money is due from DVB. In addition to that, they have got running dues which go on. But now an L.C. has been opened with NTPC. At least they are opening L.C.s for power as well which is a big advancement. It is a step in the positive direction. This works out to a little less than what they draw. But it is my hope that in future at least, the dues will be met by them by the L.C. route, by which at least some discipline will come. But the real problem is that when 40 per cent of the energy that they buy has no revenue return, how will they be able to pay pack? They cannot pay back and that is the real situation ....(*Interruptions*) The hon.Member thinks that it is irrelevant. But there is a stage up till which it can go; but beyond that it will reach a point where it will not be able to buy its supply. With regard to Rs. 6,000 crores which they owe to the BTPS, the former Prime Minister did take a meeting and assured the Delhi Government that ways and means would be found to settle it. The Finance Minister, in his Budget, has announced that he would use a form of securitisation, of giving a counter-guarantee and allowing us to encash the bills rather than discount them. On the basis of that, we are still in the process of working out whether we can do it with the BTPS bill. With regard to the other bills, it is possible to do that. This particular bill, as such, has been raised by the Central Government, which owns the BTPS being run by the NTPC through the Delhi Government. There are situations which need to be addressed. But it is true that the financial situation is critical so far as DVB is concerned. All these problems come back finally to this issue that only 60 per cent of the power is being made available on payment and 40 per cent is actually the revenue return on the power that does not get paid in Delhi. Sir, with regard to the derated capacity, the derated capacity is actually 695 MW, out of which 30 MW of the I.P. power unit has been closed down. So the actual derated capacity on 665 MW out of which 260 MW is the production figures in the Month of May.

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Sir, there has been an acute shortage of power in the last two months. There is a proposals from the Gulf countries that they will produce the power in U.A.E. and send it through the sea--route to Gujarat. But some multinationals, who are opposed to

naphthas, are working against it. They don't want this project to come through. Our country need not put its money. The Gulf countries are going to put their money. Pollution will not be there. The rate also will be cheaper. So, I would like to know if any such proposal come before the Government whether it would consider it or not.

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, we have never received such a proposal. But any proposal that comes will receive consideration. There is no doubt about it. When the shortage in power supply is 12,000 MW, I am not going to say, look at the gift horse in the mouth and laugh at it. If any offer comes, we will consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow we are going to have a Short Duration Discussion for two-and-a-half hours on Water, Power and Electricity. The Members can take up the issue in detail tomorrow.

Formation of New States

*202. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any proposal for the formation of new States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Proposals have been initiated for the formation of Uttarnchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh as new States and for the grant of Statehood to Delhi.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I believe that this question was taken up last week but, anyway, it has come up now. Sir, while talking about the proposed formation of three new States, we know that before the Reorganisation Commission, the rationale behind the formation of States was that they ought to be formed on linguistic basis—there are certain bigger States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh—even Sardar and Panicker had made their dissenting notes on the division of major States. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the rationale behind making this decision in forming these three States. There must be some rationale. What is the rationale? Linguistic State was the rationale for the re-organisation of the States. There may be some. Apart from the political compulsions, what is the rationale behind this that will provoke you to go for these three States and also offer a Statehood to Delhi?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this particular question in a different form had been discussed in the House during the Question Hour for more than half-an-hour at length in this very session. At that point itself I indicated that though there has been a demand for smaller States in various parts of the country, this Government has identified or committed itself to creation of only those three States where recommendations have been made by the State Assembly. Therefore, it was confined to Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh. Apart from that, conversion of Delhi into a full-fledged State is not a creation of a new State but the elevation of the present Constitutional status of Delhi. The rationale is simply that. Apart from the rationale, that I have mentioned, my party earlier had been saying that when the States Re-organisation Commission was first formed, though there were several criteria laid down for making their recommendations, the principle criteria was linguistic homogeneity. Language was the principle criterion. In that course several States became extra large. As a result, of which the development of States like U.P. or Bihar or M.P. became lop-sided. Some of the areas were neglected and it is practically only those that have been taken cognizance of, even when we talk about Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh.